

B 3323 no 9; Witch 033, Jennon fille feu le Petit Poirson, de Leintrey

11 June 1602; informations preparatoires

(1) Elizabeth femme a Colas Grand Demenge de Gondrexon, c. 40

Some 5 years before the accused and her late husband had lived in their house at Gondrexon. Had seen no ill in her then; only that story had gone round that she had been seen dancing in fields with Jennon Bailly wife to Nicolas Bailly, who was suspected of being a witch. Asked accused about this one day; she denied it, explaining that Jennon Bailly had visited her one day, on return from Leintrey, and that she had accompanied her some way into fields. After they separated the other suddenly returned saying she was being pursued by a horseman - she told her she was 'une sottte', and that it was some 'haxarre', on which she carried on her way. Asked who had seen dancing, said it was late curé Messire Jean Donnerey. Also said that when Jennon's husband, Claudon Grand Demenge (her husband's brother) had been on his deathbed, she had often visited him. Day before death she found him unwilling to eat sugar which Jennon had brought from Ogieviller for him; she said she would try it, having never eaten any, but he replied 'si tu en mange, tu en prinse'. Did in fact eat some, and took no harm; had never heard him express suspicion of wife 'tellement que ladite deposante impute telles parolles a la contrainte de la maladie dudit deffunct parce qu'il estoit comme troublé'.

(2) Colas Grand Demenge de Gondrexon, c. 35

Said he suspected accused of causing his brother (her husband) to die by witchcraft. Repeated story of dancing with Jennon Bailly; said latter had left village when suspicion arose that she had been accused. Said that his brother had wanted Jennon to place their goods 'au plus vivant', which she had refused. Repeated request on return from 'feste a Migneville', and then fell ill. During sickness had told witness that he was 'frappé a mort, mais qu'une femme en estoit cause'. Although he didn't say more, brother 'veu et considéré plusieurs querelles qu'ils avoient journellement par ensembles' and other circumstances, believed it was Jennon.

(3) Jean de Benamesnil, de Gondrexon, c. 38

Told of incident four years before at time of Brandons; his wife had been watering animals, and had asked Jennon to hold hers back for a little to avoid any clash between them. Despite this a calf belonging to Jennon had rushed into side of a cow, which had to be hauled home, was never able to stand again and had to be killed in the spring - butcher could see no natural reason for its inability to stand, therefore thought it was witchcraft, and referred to dancing episode.

(4) Jennon femme Jean de Benaumesnil, c. 40

Repeated story of cow as told by her husband.

(5) Demenge Daval de Gondrexon, c. 26.

Told how some 10 years before had been told by Colas Claudon about dancing episode, and about suspicions with regard to his brother's death (obviously wrong about time-scale, and not clear how far he was reporting anything at first-hand).

(6) Claudatte femme Colas Jean Mongeatte, de Gondrexon, 30

Late curé Messire Jean Donnerrey said he had seen her dancing in fields with Jennon Bailly, a recent arrival in village 'Qui fit soupçonner au commun qu'elles estoient sorcieres Mesmement ledit feu Curé dit qu'il n'avoit jamais voulu croire qu'il fut des sorcieres mais qu'a ceste heure la il le croyoit.' Thought she had killed her husband because he didn't want to go and live in her native Leintrey.

(7) Jehenne femme Colas Petit Claude de Gondrexon, 40.

Five years before had given birth to son called Bastien, but suffered temporary loss of milk. Was suggested to her that this might be because some neighbour was angry at not being invited - thought of Jennon, who like her was native of Leintrey, although she had only heard her suspected after she came to Gondrexon. Repeated standard suspicions, although she thought dancing had been with la Jobarde.

(8) Jean Mongeotte de Gondrexon, c. 70

Had never seen any evil in Jennon; had heard story of dancing, but did not suspect her of being a witch.

25 June 1602; Interrogation

Declared that she was about 46, daughter of Le Petit Poirson and his wife Catherine Nicolas Gerard. Had lived with them until she was 12, then had been in service with numerous masters at Amenoncourt, Leintrey, Remoncourt, Blesmery, Moulcey, Repos, La Garde, and Gondrexon - after year in service there with Nicolas du Vault, married late husband. He died after some 18 months, and for last 4 years had been living as widow in Leintrey. In fact only accounted for less than 10 years in service, so was probably younger than she said.. Offered normal explanations for points put to her; denied some apparently harmless points in stories, such as giving husband sugar.

Same day: Confrontations

No significant points. A mild argument over incident which caused injury to cow; Jennon said it was so icy the animals could hardly stand, witness said there was only snow.

26 June 1602; two additional depositions.

(9) Chrestienne veuve de Guillaumin Jean Vatrix de Gondrexon.

Said she had often been in Jennon's house while she was in Gondrexon, and had seen no harm in her - only story from curé.

(10) Colas Claudon de Gondrexon, 70.

Said that 9 years before, when he was margelier, the curé had told him that on his way to see a dance at Leintrey his boy had seen two women dancing in fields. One of them identified as Jennon Bailly, who lived at Gondrexon, and curé asked him about her. He replied that he suspected her of being a Huguenot or a witch, since twice he had seen her take communion, yet appear not to swallow the host. Her father-in-law identified other woman as Jennon, whom she had been to see at Leintrey.

30 June 1602: procureur fiscal asks for question extraordinaire

1 July 1602; Change de Nancy orders that she be renvoyée